

GROUND AND FACILITIES CRITERIA

Working in partnership with the Birmingham & District Regional Premier Cricket League and the WCL Facilities Sub Committee, the WCL Management Committee introduced a new Club Accreditation Document (Part One – Facilities Audit) and Part Two (Affiliation & Administration). This new document identifies three different Bands of criteria within it (Band A, Band B & Band C).

The purpose behind this new document is to help clubs identify gaps in provision and to promote an improvement in the standards of club facilities and administration across the county to ensure all players, volunteers, officials and administrators can experience the best facilities and service applicable to their level

All member clubs must comply with the ground and facilities criteria, as prescribed by the Management Committee, copies of which can be downloaded from the WCL website; www.worcsccl.org Paper copies are available from the League Administrator. Failure to comply with the criteria may lead to a disciplinary sub-committee hearing and may result in relegation or other penalty.

Promotion within Worcestershire County League or to Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League will only be confirmed if all mandatory (M) items for the higher division are either in place by the end of the current season or are covered by a signed Declaration by the Club's Chairman and Delegate, including documentary and/or financial evidence where applicable, that confirms that the requirements for the higher Division will be in place by 31st December of that year. Any club, whose current facilities would debar them from promotion to a higher division, will be notified immediately after an inspection, and made aware of the deficiencies and the improvements necessary to be eligible for promotion.

All Member clubs will be subject to a rolling program of Ground and Facilities Audit. The criteria and expectation for the Audit will be set out in the accreditation document (either Band A, B or C – the highest Band of cricket currently being played at the ground being audited). Clubs are advised to use the new WCL Club Accreditation Document (Part One – Facilities Audit & Part Two – Affiliation & Administration) to conduct a "self-audit" of both facilities and administration every year for each ground used whether owned or hired. If they are not meeting any of the criteria, they should submit a list of the areas concerned to the Administrator together with their plans to address the issues. The Chairman and Delegate of the Club must sign a declaration and undertaking, on behalf of the Club, agreeing to remedy the deficiencies found, within specified time scales.

When the declaration and undertaking have been signed, the Management Committee will advise the Club of the sanctions, which will be imposed if the Club fails to complete all or any of the deficiencies within the agreed time scales.

If the Management Committee considers that the defects are sufficiently serious, failure to rectify the agreed deficiencies within the agreed time scales may result in the Club being relegated from their current Division, in such cases the club will have the right to appeal but should not assume that leniency will be shown where the "Raising of Standards" is concerned. Clubs in this situation will be regularly visited by the Management Committee.

Clubs in the Premier Division of the Worcestershire County League should be aware that all mandatory criteria as outlined for Band A teams/clubs in the WCL Club Accreditation Document (Part One & Part Two) and furthermore all mandatory criteria as required in the Birmingham & District Regional Premier Cricket League Club Accreditation Document must be met during the season in order to qualify for the Birmingham & District Regional Premier League play-offs as Worcestershire County League Champions. Any club who does not meet these Club Accreditation standards will not become WCL Champions as the WCL Management Committee reserves the right to impose a points penalty which will ensure the Championship title is out of reach.

All teams eligible for promotion from WCL Division 1 must be able to certify that, at the end of a season in which they qualify, they will be in a position to satisfy all WCL Premier Division mandatory criteria (as outlined in the WCL Club Accreditation document for Band A teams) in order for promotion to be granted. Any club who does not meet the WCL Premier Division (Band A) Club Accreditation standards will not be granted promotion to the WCL Premier Division as the WCL Management Committee reserves the right to impose a points penalty which will ensure the promotion is out of reach.

All teams eligible for promotion from WCL Division 2 to Division 1 must be able to certify that, at the end of a season in which they qualify, they will be in a position to satisfy all of the required mandatory criteria (as outlined in the WCL Club Accreditation document for Band A teams) in order for promotion to be granted. Any club who does not meet the Band A Club Accreditation standards will not be granted promotion to WCL Division 1 as the WCL Management Committee reserves the right to impose a points penalty which will ensure the promotion is out of reach.

All teams in WCL Divisions 3 to 6 must meet the mandatory criteria outlined for Band B clubs/teams. Any club who does not meet the Band B Club Accreditation standards will not be granted promotion to a higher WCL Division as the WCL Management Committee reserves the right to impose a points penalty which will ensure the promotion is out of reach.

All teams in WCL Divisions 7 to 12 must meet the mandatory criteria outlined for Band C clubs/teams. Any club who does not meet the Band C Club Accreditation standards will not be granted promotion to a higher WCL Division as the WCL Management Committee reserves the right to impose a points penalty which will ensure the promotion is out of reach.

Any side who wishes to have the chance to play matches on an ARTIFICIAL pitch must register the fact with the Administrator before the start of the season so that the Management Committee can decide if permission will be granted. Clubs are advised that unless there are exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted in Divisions Premier to 6.